



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At the Special Meeting held May 12, 2004, the Board took the following action:

1

The Board received and filed and took under advisement requests and statements relating to the 2004-05 Proposed County Budget as follows:

1. Statement of Sheriff Lee Baca, regarding the proposed \$34.8 million cut to the Sheriff's Department's budget and the impact that the cut will have on various programs; the inability to fill Deputy and Professional Staff position vacancies; how the Department has absorbed workers' compensation costs; the manner in which Proposition 172 dollars are used; the methodology used to calculate salary savings; and the amount of money paid to the County by Contract Cities for Sheriff Services. (Attachment)
2. Statement of Brian C. Brooks, member of the California Association of Professional Employees, regarding the proposed budget cuts to the Sheriff's Department and requesting that the Board continue to exercise restraint in deciding whether to accept any proposed cuts until the State has a Budget and what its impact will have on County revenues.
3. Statement of Steve Remige, Vice President for the Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, regarding the proposed cuts to the Sheriff's Department's budget and requesting that public safety be maintained and fully funded.
4. Statement of John Rees, Executive Director for the Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, in response to questions posed by the Board regarding administrative discipline within the Sheriff's Department.

(Continued on Page 2)

1 (Continued)

5. Statement of Margaret Donnellan Todd, County Librarian, regarding the proposed budget cuts to the Public Library and the impact that the cuts will have on library facilities which will result in reduced library hours and library closures. Ms. Todd also submitted a written statement on behalf of Gordon Stefenhagen, Chair of the Library Commission, regarding the importance of supporting County Public Libraries and the valuable services provided. (Attachments)
6. Statement of Juan Noguez, Mayor of the City of Huntington Park, regarding the proposed budget cuts to the Public Library and requesting that the Public Library Budget remain intact so that services can continue to be provided to the community.
7. Statement of Maribel De La Torre, Mayor of the City of San Fernando, regarding the proposed budget cuts to the Public Library and requesting that the Board maintain the Public Library budget at its current level and not cut staff, services or programs offered by the libraries.
8. Statement of Laurene Weste, Councilmember of the City of Santa Clarita, regarding the proposed closure of Castaic Animal Shelter and transfer of Animal Care and Control Services to the Lancaster Shelter; how the Special Library Tax generated by the residents of the Santa Clarita Valley will be sufficient to keep libraries open and operating without service reductions; also thanked the Board and Director of Parks and Recreation in keeping and recommending that the Placerita Nature Center remain open.

(Continued on Page 3)

1 (Continued)

9. Statement of Timothy Gallagher, Director of Parks and Recreation, regarding the Department's proposed budget and the impact that any further cuts will have on services, such as the reduction of hours for swimming pools and Community Center use.

After discussion, Supervisor Molina introduced for discussion and placed on the agenda of June 21, 2004 for consideration during the 2004-05 Budget Deliberations, the following recommendation:
(Attachment)

Recommendation as submitted by Supervisor Molina: Adopt a fee waiver policy to increase revenues and reduce costs for the Department of Parks and Recreation, by waiving rental or facility fees, but require organizations to pay their own parking fees and costs for County staff.

10. Statement of Laura Chavez through an interpreter, regarding the proposed changes to the hours and days of operation of Roosevelt Park's swimming pool and the impact that the changes will have on the children of the community.
11. Statement of Jenny Balam, a volunteer at Roosevelt Park's swimming pool, regarding the proposed closure of the pool during the winter.
12. Statement of Lila Johnson-Crenshaw, Director of Sunshine Park, regarding the proposed reduction/closure of Parks and Recreation programs, specifically at Sunshine Park which will be detrimental to the community.

(Continued on Page 4)

1 (Continued)

13. Statement of Arlene Abdallah, a Child Support Officer and representative of Local 660 SEIU, AFL-CIO, regarding the serious impacts on children and families if front line workers are cut from the Child Support Services budget.
14. Statement of Sharon Dent-Bray, Clerical Administrator, Department of Children and Family Services, regarding the curtailment of Children's Social Workers support staff from the Children and Family Services budget and requesting that the Board restore those positions in the Budget.
15. Statement of Ramon Rubalcava, a representative of Local 660 SEIU, AFL-CIO, regarding cuts in services and programs as a result of increased costs and revenue reductions reflected in the 2004-05 Proposed Budget.
16. Statement of Bruce Saltzer, Executive Director, Association of Community Human Services Agencies (ACHSA), regarding curtailments to the Mental Health Department's budget. (Attachment)
17. Statement of Gladys C. Lee, a representative of the Asian Pacific Policy Council and Vice President of Pacific Clinics, in support of the budget recommendation from the Department of Mental Health's Stakeholders Group.
18. Statement of Bobbie Williams, a Psychiatric Technician for the Department of Mental Health, regarding the proposed \$44.6 million reduction to the Department of Mental Health's budget and requesting that the Board preserve the Department's Core Program and restore the proposed curtailments to the Department. (Attachment)
19. Statement of Miki Jackson, a consultant for AIDS Health Care Foundation, regarding the \$3.3 million reduction to the Ryan White Care Title I Funding.

(Continued on Page 5)

1 (Continued)

20. Statement of Marissa Parsons, a representative of AIDS Health Care Foundation, Government Affairs Department, requesting the restoration of AIDS funding due to the reduction of the Ryan White Care Title I Funding. Ms. Parsons also submitted written statements on behalf of Michael Nikolaus and Louis A. Rafti. (Attachments)

Attachments

R:\2003-04 Budget\05-14-03-1-B.doc

- c: Each Supervisor
Sheriff
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
County Librarian
Director of Animal Care and Control
Director of Child Support Services
Director of Children and Family Services
Director of Health Services
Director of Mental Health
Director of Parks and Recreation

1



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters

4700 Ramona Boulevard

Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



May 12, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

2004/2005 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The purpose of this correspondence is to address the grave concerns that I have regarding the proposed \$34.8 million cut to the Sheriff's Department in the County's 2004/05 budget. Having already endured \$166.8 million in cuts during the past two fiscal years, I would like to remind you of what that has meant to public safety in Los Angeles County:

- The loss of funding for nearly 1,000 deputy sheriffs.
- 361 less uniformed deputies in the unincorporated areas, including elimination of community policing personnel and Town Sheriffs.
- Closure of two jail facilities, including the Biscailuz Recovery Center.
- Early release of inmates, including those convicted of domestic violence crimes, drunk driving, child abuse matters, gun possession, drug use and theft.
- Disbandment of 36 member Asian Crime Task Force which successfully targeted vibrant and violent criminal enterprises and street thugs.
- An inability to hire necessary replacement personnel, leaving the Department with an inordinate number of vacancies today; more than 330 deputy sheriffs and 650 professional staff positions cannot be filled due to lack of money.

A Tradition of Service

The proposed \$34.8 million cut beginning July 1, 2004, is attributed, in large part, to my Department being forced to absorb skyrocketing Workers' Compensation costs. The Sheriff's Department has pro-actively addressed this area of concern – the number of claims per 100 employees has dropped from a high of 32 in 1986, to 26 in 2003. In addition, our participation in the County's method of applying a three-year rolling average has resulted in my Department paying nearly **\$41 million more** than our actual costs for the past five years. This clearly amounts to a penalty for responsible management.

Of the Department's proposed \$1.684 billion budget for 2004/05, \$1 billion in revenue will come from sources outside the County's coffers, i.e., contract entities, state and federal grants, etc. Your Board provides the balance of \$684 million which is used to fund our jail operations, determines the number of deputies that can be deployed in unincorporated patrol areas, and dictates the quality of investigative and administrative services we can provide.

During each of the past four fiscal years, over \$400 million of the externally generated revenue is provided by the half-cent sales tax dedicated to law enforcement services through the 1993 passage of Proposition 172. Of particular note, the level of funding ("Net County Cost") provided by your Board slipped from \$775 million in 1992/93 to \$468 million in 1993/94, the year that Proposition 172 funds became available. Since the County began receiving Proposition 172 funds, the Net County Cost amount provided to the Sheriff's Department has never reached the \$775 million mark of 1992/93 and, in fact, has fallen cumulatively short by \$2.4 billion. It is no secret that I dispute the manner in which Proposition 172 funds are used, in my opinion, to supplant the County's responsibility to provide the Sheriff's Department with adequate resources.

Based on the California State Controller's Office half-cent sales tax publication, we are projecting a \$35.6 million increase in Proposition 172 funds for 2004/05. As that revenue is dedicated for law enforcement purposes, our Department's 2004/05 proposed budget reflected that projected revenue increase. While this request was granted, the proposed budget then reflects a like amount **deducted** from the Net County Cost dollars. Since the request from the Chief Administrative Office was to submit a "Base Budget" (e.g., one reflecting no increase in Net County Cost dollars), I do not understand this deduction. Is my Department being penalized for being the recipient of more externally generated, Proposition 172 funds?

On the issue of Salary Savings, I would like to bring two important points to your attention. First, personnel that are paid for (revenue offset) by contracting entities, grants, etc., should not be subject to the same formula used by the Chief Administrative Office to guesstimate my Department's annual vacancy and top-step pay variances.

Filling, or not filling, a position paid for by another entity is an obligation, not an option. In addition, of those positions funded by Net County Cost dollars, the majority are deemed "critical", i.e., front-line, 24-hour, etc. Like the revenue offset positions, these should not be included in the Salary Savings formula; filling them is an absolute necessity for public safety reasons.

I believe that the inclusion of revenue offset and critical positions in the Salary Savings formula is improper. When the Salary Savings formula is properly applied against the remaining positions funded by Net County Cost dollars, the percentage of funds withheld from my Department's budget is unreasonable.

As I've mentioned in previous correspondence, I understand and appreciate the difficult task that you have in meeting all of the demands for service while operating with limited financial resources. However, during the course of the past two years, I have consistently communicated to your Board and members of your respective staffs the dangers of continued law enforcement curtailments. The 2004/05 budget, in its current proposed form, further jeopardizes the safety of the public. We anticipate losing, through attrition, another 400 deputy sheriffs without the resources necessary to hire replacements. If that holds true, by June 30, 2005, we will have shorted the public by approximately 1,800 deputy sheriffs in just three years.

Respectfully reminding you once again that public safety and the criminal justice system in Los Angeles County are at stake, **I recommend that you:**

- Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to exclude my Department from the three-year rolling average method of projecting Workers' Compensation costs.
- Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to keep the projected \$35.6 million increase in Proposition 172 dollars in my 2004/05 budget **without reducing** my Net County Cost.
- Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to follow the recommendation of the December 2003 Thompson, Cobb, Bazilio and Associates (TCBA) Audit and "apply a more objective methodology for calculating salary savings for the Sheriff's Department..."

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

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May 12, 2004

In advance of your upcoming budget deliberations, I thank you for your consideration of my request for adequate public safety funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leroy D. Baca". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

LERROY D. BACA
SHERIFF

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
BUDGET CURTAILMENTS**

IMPACT OF FUNDING CUTS	AMOUNT	BUDGETED POSITIONS
FY 2003-04		
Custody Services	\$ (15,169,000)	(139.0)
Court Services - Trial Court Funding	(16,452,000)	(187.0)
COPS	(6,553,000)	(81.0)
Overtime Reduction	(30,131,000)	-
Subtotal LASD Shortfall	\$ (68,305,000)	(407.0)
Office of Homeland Security	\$ (150,000)	(2.0)
Patrol Field Operations Regions I, II, III	(7,026,000)	(81.0)
Leadership & Training Division	(2,504,000)	(31.0)
Technical Services Division	(615,000)	(9.0)
Administrative Services Division	(898,000)	(19.0)
Executive Division	(907,000)	(11.0)
Reserve Coordinators	(1,939,000)	(20.0)
Subtotal CAO Cut	\$ (14,039,000)	(173.0)
CAO Curtailment Revisions - Final Changes (Court 12.0; Various 7.0)		(19.0)
FY 2003-04 TOTAL CURTAILMENT	\$ (82,344,000)	(599.0)
FY 2002-03		
Special Operations Div./Office of Assistant Sheriff	\$ (998,000)	(10.0)
Asian Crime Task Force	(3,362,000)	(36.0)
Cargo Cats	(1,336,000)	(14.0)
Biscailuz Recovery Center	(3,844,000)	(49.0)
Deputy Leadership Institute	(906,000)	(6.0)
COPS	(2,398,000)	(26.0)
Training Bureau	(2,863,000)	(33.0)
Success Through Awareness and Resistance (STAR)	(3,057,000)	(32.0)
Town Sheriff	(1,439,000)	(15.0)
Services And Supplies Reduction	(40,657,000)	-
Fixed Assets Reduction	(10,000,000)	-
Other Charges Reduction	(4,600,000)	-
Strip Search/Overdetention Prepayment	(9,000,000)	-
Subtotal LASD Shortfall	\$ (84,460,000)	(221.0)
COPS		(152.0)
Century Regional Detention Center		(140.0)
Vacant Items (to reduce Salary Savings)		(112.0)
Subtotal LASD Cut to Cover Unfunded Programs	\$ -	(404.0)
FY 2002-03 TOTAL CURTAILMENT	\$ (84,460,000)	(625.0)
FY 2001-02 TOTAL CURTAILMENT	\$ -	-
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET CURTAILMENTS	\$ (166,804,000)	(1,224.0)
(FYs 2003-04, 2002-03, 2001-02)		

10/29/2003 (Revised)

bud\cm\03-04\cuts BACA press release 1-page summary

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WORKERS' COMPENSATION COST HIGHLIGHTS

Background

1. The Department currently has about 7,500 open workers' compensation claims of which at least 35% are Department retirees (no managerial oversight). This creates the incorrect perception that the situation is much worse than it actually is.
2. The Department currently has about 800 employees off due to injury or illness, of which about 500 involve workers' compensation claims.
3. Although the Department has increased its workforce by approximately 77%, from 1983 to 2003, the number of workers' compensation claims per 100 employees has dropped from a high of 32, in 1986, to 26 in 2003.
 - The attached chart reflects a steady decrease in claims from 28.87 claims, in 2000-01, to an estimated 25.75 for 2004-05.
 - The cost per claim has risen from \$13,346, in 1997-98, to \$21,260 in 2001-02.

Actual Costs Versus the Amount Department is Billed

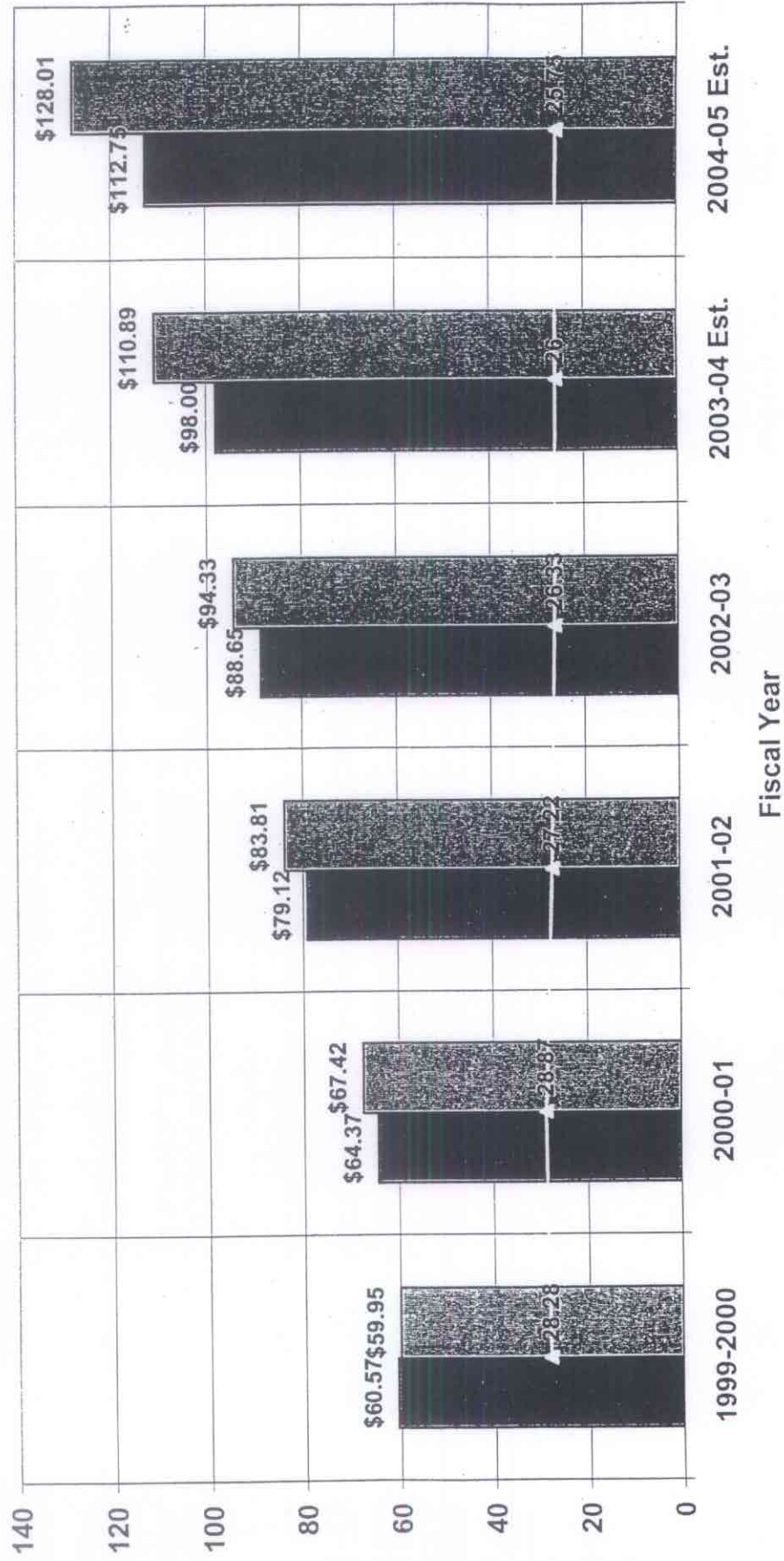
1. The Department participates in a three-year rolling average, which has resulted in its having to subsidize other County departments in recent years. Since Fiscal Year 1999-2000, the Department has cumulatively paid about 8% more than its actual workers' compensation costs (refer to table below and attached chart).

Fiscal Year	Actual Cost	Amount Department Billed	Difference
1999-2000	\$60,565,000	\$59,953,000	\$612,000
2000-2001	\$64,365,000	\$67,424,000	(\$3,059,000)
2001-2002	\$79,117,000	\$83,806,000	(\$4,689,000)
2002-2003	\$88,646,000	\$94,334,000	(\$5,688,000)
2003-04 Estimate	98,003,592	\$110,885,000	(\$12,881,408)
2004-05 Estimate	\$112,747,547	\$128,009,000	(\$15,261,453)
Estimated Totals	\$503,444,139	\$544,411,000	(\$40,966,861)

Current Proposals

1. The three-year rolling average, which was originally designed to prevent large spikes in actual cost increases, does not appear to benefit the Sheriff's Department anymore. The Department should only be billed the actual costs.
2. The Department should not be held liable for retiree workers' compensation costs. This program should be managed centrally by the CAO.
3. Do not act until there is a better understanding of the fiscal impact of the new workers' compensation reform law approved by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on April 19, 2004 (SB 899).

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COSTS AND NUMBER OF EMPLOYEE INJURY CLAIMS



■ Actual Cost (In Millions)
 ■ Amount Billed to Sheriff's Department (In Millions)
 ■ Number of Injury Claims Per 100 Employees

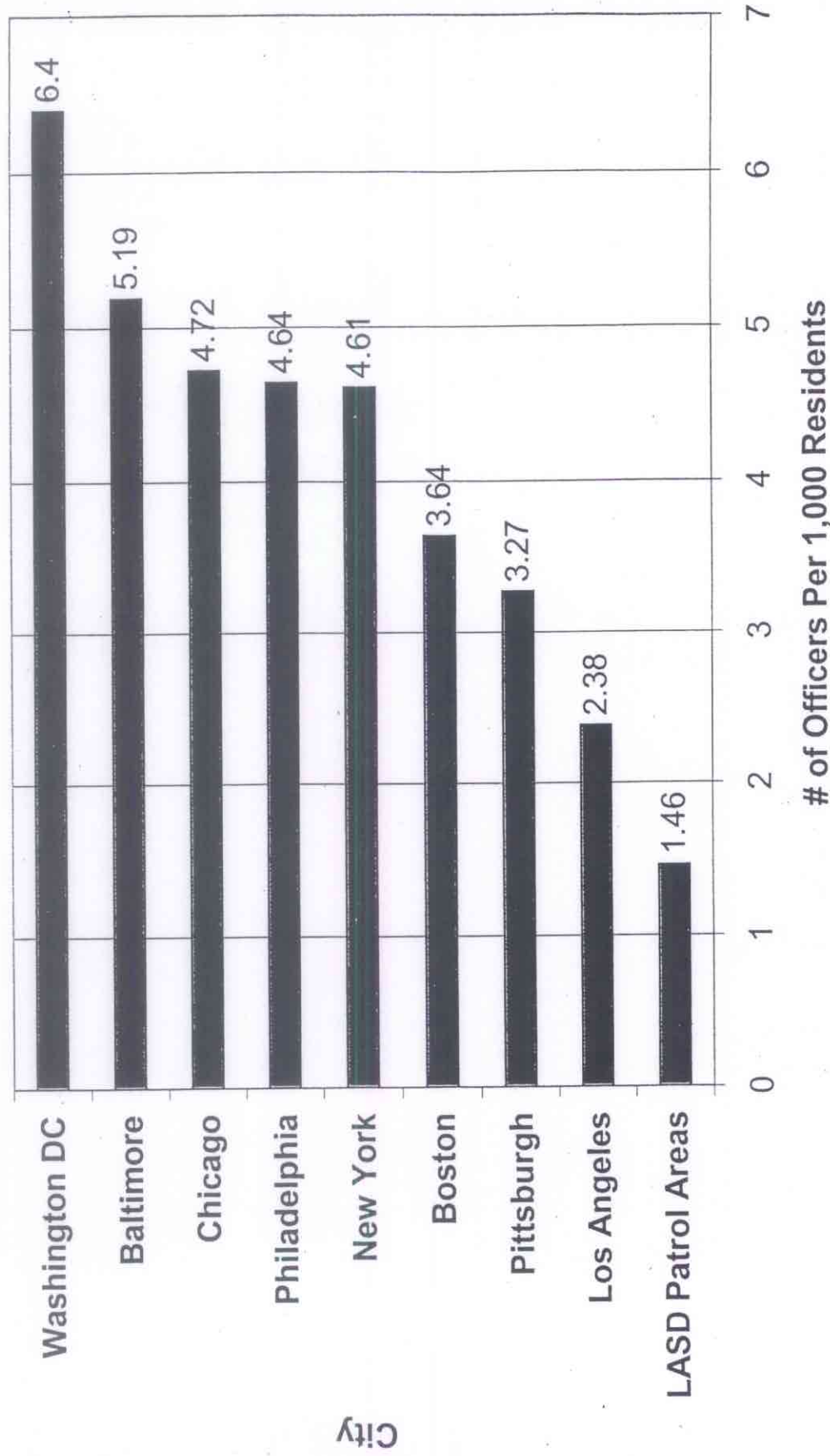
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Net County Cost versus Public Safety Sales Tax (PSAF) Revenue
BUDGET HISTORY

	Net County Cost	Net County Cost FY Change from Adopted 1992/93	PSAF Revenue Budget	PSAF Revenue Actual
Adopted 1992/93	\$ 775,406,000		\$ -	\$ -
Adopted 1993/94	468,163,000	\$ (307,243,000)	297,171,000	298,363,963
Adopted 1994/95	552,483,000	(222,923,000)	305,819,000	313,263,192
Adopted 1995/96	565,763,000	(209,643,000)	328,735,000	333,682,000
Adopted 1996/97	500,333,000	(275,073,000)	353,740,000	352,205,000
Adopted 1997/98	502,223,000	(273,183,000)	357,025,000	351,725,853
Adopted 1998/99	481,161,000	(294,245,000)	367,975,000	364,925,511
Adopted 1999/00	542,657,000	(232,749,000)	384,693,000	411,494,528
Adopted 2000/01	569,633,000	(205,773,000)	394,763,000	434,741,341
Adopted 2001/02	645,418,000	(129,988,000)	446,831,000	414,784,061
Adopted 2002/03	676,774,000	(98,632,000)	446,831,000	425,524,840
Adopted 2003/04	708,859,000	(66,547,000)	425,448,000	-- N/A --
Proposed 2004/05	684,545,000	(90,861,000) (a)	458,848,000	-- N/A --
TOTAL		\$ (2,406,860,000) (b)	\$ 4,567,879,000 (c)	-- N/A --

Notes:

- a) \$90.8 million below net County cost level of 1992/93
- b) \$2.4 billion 12-year loss in Net County Cost, not including inflation or CPI
- c) \$4.5 billion 12-year total amount supplanted via PSAF revenue

NUMBER OF SWORN PERSONNEL PER 1,000 POPULATION SELECTED CITIES VERSUS LASD JURISDICTION



MARGARET DONNELLAN TODD
COUNTY LIBRARIAN

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY LIBRARIAN

MAY 12, 2004

In the past seven years, due to the actions of the State, the County of Los Angeles Public Library, like most County libraries in California, has endured revenue reductions far beyond what can be described as a "fair share". Once again, I fear that whatever budget compromise is reached in Sacramento, the result will be reduced funding for the County Library.

As the Board is aware, the County Library struggles to deliver basic services. The community libraries are staffed at a minimal level in comparison to our neighbor jurisdictions. The Library's materials budget is more than 50% lower than national average for large urban libraries. Further, the Library has serious infrastructure needs that must be addressed including the replacement of a 20-year old library automaton system and the needed replacement of many of our community library buildings.

In spite of these challenges, library use continues to increase. Over the past three years, library use has increased approximately 9% with an over 200% increase in computer use.

For that reason, any reduction in funding will be disastrous and must result in a combination of reduced hours and closed facilities. As the Library staff prepares a number of curtailment scenarios for the Board's review during deliberations, it is clear that there are no easy choices.

Our library supporters, my staff and I clearly recognize that the Board of Supervisors has continually provided strong support for the Library. The crisis that the Library faces is not the result of actions taken by the Board of Supervisors but rather the result of actions by the State. I know that the Board will do everything possible to maintain County Library services.

County of Los Angeles Public Library Commission
7400 E. Imperial Highway
P.O. Box 7011
Downey, CA 90241-7011



May 11, 2004

Officers

Gordon Stefenhagen
Chair

Joseph Cislowski
Vice Chair

Alma Martinez
Secretary

Members

Louis Byrd
Deone Colbary
Susan Curzon
Margaret Finlay
Sally Flowers
Raquel Galan
Sylvia Galan-Garcia
Marlen Garcia
Revé Gipson
Sal Guarriello
Herbert Hatanaka
Harold Hofmann
Waymon Roy
Tom Sykes
Efrem Violin
Fernando Vizcarra

The Honorable Don Knabe, Chair
County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
822 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Knabe:

As Chair of the Library Commission, I am writing to urge your Board to continue to support the County of Los Angeles Public Library and the valuable services it provides.

For many residents of Los Angeles County, the County Library is the most easily accessible and the most often used County service. It is the place they go for information, recreation and education.

Parents rely on the County Library to provide a safe place for their children after school. They depend on the Library and its staff to assist with homework and to provide access to computers that may not be available in the home. They turn to the programs and story times provided by the Library to encourage their children to read and to explore the world outside of their communities.

In difficult financial times, adults turn to the Library for information concerning employment, job skills and retraining. They also turn to the resources of the Library when they are unable to afford to purchase needed materials from bookstores. Studies have repeatedly shown that the more difficult the economic times, the busier the libraries.

The members of the Library Commission know that you are facing dire choices in this tough budget year. We hope that you will recognize the enormous benefits that can be derived from a relatively small investment in the County Library. We urge you to continue your support of this vital service.

Sincerely,

Gordon Stefenhagen, Chair
Library Commission

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

May 12, 2004

The Parks and Recreation Department operates facilities that frequently host organizations' special events. These diverse organizations provide community benefit to residents throughout the County. Their events raise funds and awareness about a range of issues from environmentalism, mental health, public safety, athletics and cultural programs. To encourage use of County Parks' facilities by civic groups and non-profit organizations, fee waivers are sometimes requested. These fee waivers are comprised of three costs: parking fees, facility rental fees, and staff costs. Given the current budget situation, Parks staff recommends adopting a policy where Board offices encourage groups to fund their own parking fees and costs for County staff, or charge their volunteers directly, yet offer civic and non-profit organizations assistance by waiving rental charges including bandwagon fees.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board adopt a fee waiver policy that supports the Department's efforts to increase revenues and reduce costs, by waiving rental or facility fees, but requiring organizations to pay their own parking fees and costs for County staff.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Burke	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Antonovich	_____
Knabe	_____

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ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICE AGENCIES
TESTIMONY ON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET
BEFORE THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – 5/12/04

The Association of Community Human Service Agencies has been pleased to have been a part of the community stakeholders process for the development of recommendations on the Department of Mental Health's budgetary priorities for FY 04/05. This stakeholder process has unfolded against the backdrop of perhaps the most significant budget crisis faced by DMH in almost two decades.

Given the severity of the Department's budget deficit situation and the great difficulty of the task facing the community stakeholders, I am pleased to note that the process itself was an extremely collaborative one, with a great degree of overall consensus on the direction that needs to be taken by the Department. At the same time, I want to make it clear, up front, that the budgetary reductions that will be proposed to this Board later this month will be extremely painful for large numbers of very vulnerable individuals with serious mental illness.

As you are aware, the past two years have already been very difficult ones for persons with mental illness in this county, primarily those who are uninsured. Our community agencies alone have been asked to absorb almost \$10 million in reductions over that period of time. Simply put, the County's community-based service delivery system today is unable to handle the needs of all of its uninsured clients with serious mental illness -- the County's financial resources are simply inadequate.

Given this reality, it is patently clear that the community-based outpatient portion of the County mental health system cannot absorb any additional curtailments for those individuals who are uninsured. Fortunately, this has been recognized by the members of the community stakeholders process, who made it their highest priority to preserve these services, to the greatest degree possible. Supporting this priority, along with enhanced consumer self-help programs, were the Client Coalition and Stakeholders Group, NAMI (the organization representing families), law enforcement, the Latino Mental Health Council, and the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, among others.

Of course, with a projected budget shortfall now exceeding \$30 million, painful reductions must be made in other areas, including the state hospitals and IMDs. But

difficult decisions had to be made and we believe that the stakeholders group did an outstanding job in protecting those services that are most cost-efficient as well as most cost-effective.

ACHSA strongly endorses these recommendations and hopes that this Board will ultimately adopt these priorities when the budget stakeholders plan is presented to you. ACHSA is also hopeful that additional funding can be located to be able to restore proposed reductions in the areas of medication support, community residential care, and short-term community inpatient care.

In closing, ACHSA would like to emphasize that costs for uninsured individuals with serious mental illness in this County will be absorbed somewhere in the County system. The real question is where these costs will be absorbed. We believe that this should be in outpatient care within the mental health system, rather than in more costly and clearly less appropriate locations, such as the County jails, hospitals, and criminal justice system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Budget Hearing
5/12/04

18

Bobbie Williams Dept. of Mental Health
Psych. Tech. 24 1/2 yrs

Mental Health is facing a 44.6 million dollars reduction. My concern is to ask the Board to preserve the core Programs to Mental Health, and to restore the Cuts. To put money back into Children System of Care.

A group of Mental Health employees lobbied at the Capitol in Sacramento on Tues, May 11, 2004 regarding budget cuts.

Rev. Michael Nikolaus

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Good morning. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak to you this morning.

Since 1987, I have presided over more than 200 HIV funerals, about 50 of which were of personal friends. After having lived the experience of seeing so many of my friends die, I feel incredibly fortunate just to be alive and healthy. I have been HIV positive for at least 20 years. In those early days, of course, we didn't know nearly as much about the disease as we know today. There were no anti-virals, no drug cocktails, no protease inhibitors. An HIV diagnosis in those times meant almost certain death.

Today, thank God much has changed. I haven't officiated over an HIV funeral for more than two years. My own health has improved dramatically — my viral load reading which was once over 1 million is not almost undetectable; my CD4 count has gone from 32 to 405. I owe my health and my very life to the care I get from AIF.

I wasn't sick enough to qualify for disability, but because I have a pre-existing condition it was just about impossible for me to get affordable health insurance. Though I'm healthy today, if my care and drug regimen was interrupted my health would deteriorate very quickly. There are lots of other people out there who are already very sick and whose needs are even more critical.

I realize that you are not in an easy situation. You are dealing with a budget shortfall that is not of your own making and you are called upon to set priorities and make tough choices. I just ask you to remember that behind cold numbers are the real needs of human beings, many of whom are on the fringes of society and have no voice. Please remember the faces of those behind the figures. I don't want to go back to the days of officiating over an average of 2 funerals a week. I don't want to have to console any more moms and dads and spouses and children whose loved ones fell victim to this awful disease when the suffering is preventable. For many of us, this proposed budget cutback is more than an inconvenience — it is a matter of our very lives. Please do the right thing. Thank you.

GOOD MORNING LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS!!!

My name is Louis A. Rafti I am a Los Angeles County Resident and a Person Living With AIDS.

I am here to voice my concern over how the \$3.3MM shortfall in AIDS funding that LA County is facing will be addressed, in the context of what having adequate health care treatment for AIDS has meant to me...

*I was diagnosed as being HIV+ in March '98
Just two weeks after my CSBRA medical benefits expired*
I have been a client of AIDS Health Care Foundation since I was first diagnosed with AIDS in May of 1998, *at that* ^{*is Hollywood Clinic*} time I weighed 123 lbs., had PCP pneumonia, T-cell count of "2" and a viral load of 495,000.

At that time,
my ~~The~~ health care provider sat down with me and told me that I wasn't going to die, told me that I was going to be given treatment, and told me not to worry, that they ~~(AIDS Healthcare Foundation)~~ *were going to* ~~would be~~ able to take care of me.

The treatment I was given consisted of ~~Heavy~~ ^{*Anti*} Anti Retroviral Therapy and lots of visits with my health care provider.

With in 6 weeks of beginning treatment my HIV viral load was determined to be undetectable and my T-cells began to rebound.

Within one year, I had T-cell count that was in the normal range for a healthy person, I was back to my normal weight, and my viral load remained undetectable.

The level of health care I have received through AHF, in Los Angeles County has ^{been} ~~was~~ good enough that just 3 years after being as sick as I was when I was first diagnosed, I was well enough to begin to plan my re-entry into the work force ^{To That End} ~~and~~ I enrolled in a Juris Doctor Program at Southwestern University School of Law.

My areas of concentrated study there have been Anti-Discrimination Laws as they relate to HIV/AIDS and the legal aspects of access to Public Benefits.

I interned at the HIV&AIDS Legal Services Alliance and this summer I will complete my course of study by doing an externship working in public benefits advocacy at Public Counsel.

Oh, and tomorrow I will take my last final exam and its' also my Birthday, BUT NONE OF THESE THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE if it weren't for the fact that I live in a County that cares about people with AIDS and am able to receive the level of health care that is currently available at clinics that provide AIDS healthcare as AHF.

46th
At best I'd be sitting at home watching
Re-nurs of 'I Love My
At worst - I'd no longer be here.

I still visit my doctor at least once a month, and have a close relationship with her, and that has allowed me to get to a point

where I will soon re enter the work force and, maybe even ^{begin to} pay for my own health care benefits.

I am not proposing that everyone w/ AIDS go to Law School,
But what I am proposing is that AIDS Healthcare Services be maintained
at a level that allows PLWA who are able to, to go back to work ^{so}.
And more importantly - to maintain AIDS Healthcare Services at the level they are currently
I access many different HIV services in LA County but the most ^{at} For people
important and critical service... the one that has made the ^{who can't go}
difference between life and death for me is healthcare. ^{back to work}

^{I who depend on those}
Healthcare services for their lives.

Healthcare services are fundamental to the needs of people living with HIV and AIDS... Without healthcare, all the other HIV services that are available would be absolutely meaningless.

A ^{Reduction in} ^{funding}
~~\$1.3MM is cut from~~ AIDS health care in Los Angeles County, ~~it~~
may make it much more difficult for persons living with AIDS in Los Angeles County to obtain adequate health care and may completely preclude Persons Living With AIDS from getting well enough to re enter the workforce and to get off public benefits.

In response to the \$3.3MM shortfall, I ask the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to do as the Board of Supervisors did in 1996
to find other ~~resources~~ ^{to} make up for the shortfall and not cut AIDS services.

If that is not possible, I ask the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to not reduce AIDS Healthcare funding at all, but to apportion the shortfall to ^{Reduction in funding} ~~cuts~~ in other areas, such as in the area of administration of AIDS services.

Reductions in funding is

Importantly, If any ~~cuts are~~ to be made to any areas of AIDS services in Los Angeles County, I strongly urge the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to ONLY MAKE ^{Reductions} ~~THOSE CUTS~~ AFTER A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF PARTICULAR AIDS SERVICES, AND OF PARTICULAR AIDS SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS ~~has been made~~ ^{Reductions} so as to determine where funding ~~cuts~~ will result in the least reduction of services to Persons Living With AIDS & HIV in Los Angeles County.

BECAUSE ACROSS THE BOARD CUTS PENALIZE THE AIDS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS THAT OPERATE EFFICIENTLY, AND REWARD THOSE THAT DO NOT

THE EFFECT OF SUCH ACROSS THE BOARD CUTS COULD THEREFORE IMPACT THE LEVEL OF AIDS SERVICES THAT RESIDENTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY CURRENTLY RECEIVE TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN THE FACE AMOUNT OF THE FUNDING REDUCTION IMPLIES. -

LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, PLEASE DO NOT ~~CUT OUR HEALTH CARE~~ *Funding.*

Reduce AIDS Health Care

HEALTHCARE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SERVICE THAT ~~PEOPLE~~ ^{I, As a Person} LIVING WITH AIDS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY RECIEVE *S*

Thank you!